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Comments on the Bureau of Reclamation's 5-Mile Zone Study Area Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Assessment

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) has done a very commendable job of attempting to develop a plan that has something for everyone. The choice of Alternative D however, I believe is not the best alternative. The City of San Luis has proposed an Alternative which takes parts of C and D which would allow their community to grow, new jobs to be created, and still ensure that BOR is able to carry out its mission.

The Federal government through BOR has a responsibility to the citizens of San Luis and Yuma County to work together to enable the city of San Luis to expand within the area while protecting the wells and infrastructure necessary to fulfill our 242 agreement with Mexico. The area designated for the management of the Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard is set and should be retained however the land located to the West should be reviewed with the community of San Luis for development potential.

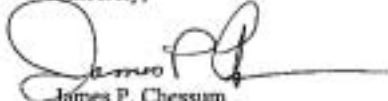
Land could be declared excess by BOR and sold with restrictions to protect the underground water as required by Treaty. Land deemed necessary to be retained should be used to allow corridors for utilities which could be placed underground to allow for the retention of visual aesthetics. Land which has cultural significance should be protected or showcased in an environment that would allow for people to view it in a park like setting if possible.

BOR and the City of San Luis working together could develop the preferred alternative since both must follow the final Resource Management Plan as it is adopted. This is an opportunity to create goodwill within the Community, and a better final plan to implement.

Treaties need to be protected as well as our environmental process, but not without ensuring that the Citizens of San Luis have as much opportunity as citizens elsewhere to new jobs and community growth in the future.

I can be reached at the (928) 783-8911. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



James P. Chessum
Administrator,
Greater Yuma Port Authority